



### PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

**Meeting.** The Public Safety Advisory Board (PSAB) met September 21, 2016, in the Jessie Parker Building on the State Capitol Complex.

**Driver's License Revocations – Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT).** Mark Lowe, Transportation Division Director, presented information on driving sanctions in FY 2016. Lowe noted the disproportionate focus on sanctions for reasons not related to safety, with 63.0% of all the sanctions occurring for financial reasons. In FY 2016, 46.0% of the driving sanctions were imposed for failure to pay fines and 9.0% were for failure to pay child support. Discussion on the potential positive and negative effects of removing the sanctions for failure to pay fines or child support followed.

**Risk Assessment for Drug Offenders – Iowa Department of Corrections (DOC).** Lettie Prell, DOC Director of Research, presented on the risk assessment evaluation process. The risk assessment is comprised of three evaluations: Iowa Violence and Victimization Instrument (IVVI), Iowa Risk Revised (IRR), and Dynamic Risk Assessment. The IVVI and IRR use a formula to predict the likelihood of recidivism, and the dynamic test involves getting to know the person and whether they are likely to reoffend based on their specific circumstances.

**Research on Issues from Governor's Working Group.** In May 2016, the PSAB reviewed and prioritized the following issues from the Governor's Working Group for further review. The Criminal and Juvenile Justice Planning (CJJP) Division made the following findings:

- 1) Revise 2010 report on crack/powder cocaine disparity:
  - Since 2010, the PSAB has endorsed the reduction of disparity between crack and powder cocaine penalties. There is disagreement within the Board of how "equalization" of the offenses may be accomplished.
  - Discussion followed the report, and the board determined it would need to learn more about the issue before making a decision on the "equalization" plan it would endorse.
- 2) Study alternatives to prison:
  - The DOC provided information on the current alternatives to prison that are in place.
  - Discussion followed regarding best practices and the Results First program, which has been working with the DOC to analyze the long-term costs and benefits within the prison system. The Board discussed further research on reduction of the recidivism rate and analyzing the effectiveness of the system.
- 3) Research noncriminal suspension/revocation of driver's licenses.

The group also identified the decriminalization of marijuana possession as a potential area to review. Due to time constraints, the Board was not able to discuss the last two issues. The Board will discuss all of the issues and any possible recommendations at the next meeting.

**Next Meeting.** The Board is scheduled to meet November 16, 2016, in Room 201 of the Lucas Building on the Capitol Complex.

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